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A 1606/1699

CATECHISM,  
OR,  
SUMMARY  
OF THE  
CHRISTIAN RELIGION,  
FOR THE  
INSTRUCTION OF CHILDREN.

To which is added,

An Abridgment of a larger one,

In Three PARTS.

- I. Of the Reasons of the Christian Religion.
- II. Of the Articles of the Christian Faith.
- III. Of the Laws and Institutions of the Gospel.

GLASGOW:

Printed in the Year. M,DCC,LVIII.

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*Oct 27 1707*

74/943

1606/1699

# CATECHISM, &c.

Quest. 1. **D**EAR child, what are you made for?

*Ans.* I am made to know and obey God, that I may for ever be happy in him.

Q. 2. Where may you learn to know and obey God?

A. In the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament, which are the word of God.

Q. 3. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable, in his Being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.

Q. 4. What is God with respect to us?

A. The Almighty God is our Maker, Owner, Father and Ruler, who continually preserves us, and is doing us good.

Q. 5. How must you obey God?

A. I must obey God by doing every thing he requires of me, and by avoiding every thing he forbids me.

Q. 6. What rule of obedience hath God given us?

A. The ten commandments.

Q. 7. Which is the first commandment?

A. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.

Q. 8. How do we keep this commandment?

A. By giving the highest honour, love, trust, worship, and obedience to God, and to him alone.

Q. 9. Which is the second commandment?

A. Thou shalt not make unto thyself any graven image, or the likeness of any thing in heaven, or earth, to bow down to it, or worship it.

Q. 10. How do we keep this commandment?

A. By preserving the truth of religion both in doctrine and worship.

Q. 11. Which is the third commandment?

A. Thou



*A.* Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

*Q.* 12. *How do we keep this commandment?*

*A.* By worshipping God with reverence and devotion, and by carefully avoiding all profane use of his holy name.

*Q.* 13. *Which is the fourth commandment?*

*A.* Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.

*Q.* 14. *How do we keep this commandment?*

*A.* By spending the sabbath in the public and private exercises of religion.

*Q.* 15. *Which is the fifth commandment?*

*A.* Honour thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long.

*Q.* 16. *How do we keep this commandment?*

*A.* By reverencing, obeying and succouring our parents, and by giving to all persons the honour and duty belonging to them in their several places.

*Q.* 17. *Which is the sixth commandment?*

*A.* Thou shalt do no murther.

*Q.* 18. *How do we keep this commandment?*

*A.* By carefully preserving life, by abstaining from all malice and anger, and whatever has a tendency to hurt or destroy it.

*Q.* 19. *Which is the seventh commandment?*

*A.* Thou shalt not commit adultery.

*Q.* 20. *How do we keep this commandment?*

*A.* By keeping our bodies in temperance, soberness and chastity, and by abhorring all unclean thoughts, words and actions.

*Q.* 21. *Which is the eight commandment?*

*A.* Thou shalt not steal.

*Q.* 22. *How do we keep this commandment?*

*A.* By abstaining from all fraudulent practices, by industry in an honest calling, by kindness to others, especially the poor.



Q. 23. *Which is the ninth commandment ?*

A. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Q. 24. *How do we keep this commandment ?*

A. By keeping our tongues from lying, flandering and evil speaking, and especially from false witness bearing.

Q. 25. *Which is the tenth commandment ?*

A. Thou shalt not covet any thing that is thy neighbours.

Q. 26. *How do we keep this commandment ?*

A. By being content with what we have, without envying, or coveting the enjoyments of other men.

Q. 27. *What is the sum of the ten commandments ?*

A. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Q. 28. *Do the commands of God reach to our heart and thoughts ?*

A. Yes. God requires truth in the heart, and the secret love of evil is known and hated by him.

Q. 29. *Must you from your youth labour to know and obey God ?*

A. I must labour to know and obey God from my youth, otherwise I shall fall into sin.

Q. 30. *What is sin ?*

A. Sin is the transgression of God's law.

Q. 31. *How comes it to pass that you are in danger of falling into sin ?*

A. Because my own appetites and passions, and the examples of a corrupt and wicked world, if not carefully guarded against, will draw me from the obedience of God.

Q. 32. *How comes it to pass that the world is corrupt and wicked ?*

A. Because men have abused their understanding,  
and



and have sought out many evil inventions.

Q. 33. *And what is the consequence of mens falling into corruption and wickedness ?*

A. They are thereby made unfit for the enjoyment of God, and exposed to his wrath.

Q. 34. *Has God left mankind exposed to his wrath without help or hope ?*

A. God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved the world, hath provided redemption for us in *Jesus Christ*.

Q. 35. *Who is Jesus Christ ?*

A. The Son of the living God, who for our sakes became a man.

Q. 36. *How did the Son of God become a man ?*

A. The Son of God became a man by taking a body like unto ours, being conceived by the holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her.

Q. 37. *How did the Son of God live upon earth ?*

A. The Son of God lived upon earth in a low condition, under the trials and calamities of life, and at last died a shameful and cursed death upon the cross.

Q. 38. *Is Christ now among the dead ?*

A. No. He arose from the dead on the third day, and afterwards went up into heaven to the right-hand of God.

Q. 39. *What is Christ to us as our Redeemer ?*

A. Christ is to us a prophet, a priest, and a king.

Q. 40. *What doth Christ for us as a prophet ?*

A. As a prophet, Christ reveals to us the will of God, and a future world.

Q. 41. *What doth Christ for us as a priest ?*

A. As a priest, Christ offered up himself a sacrifice, by his obedience to make atonement for our sins, and now makes intercession for us.

Q. 42. *What doth Christ for us as a king ?* A.

*A.* As a *king*, Christ rules in his church, destroys his enemies, and gives his people eternal salvation.

*Q.* 43. *What are the things which God has freely given us in Christ Jesus?*

*A.* God in Christ hath *chosen us*, who were *Heathens*, before the foundation of the world, has *called us* to his kingdom and glory, given us the *promises* of his covenant, particularly the remission of sins, and the hope of eternal life.

*Q.* 44. *How do we improve the mercy and gifts of God in Christ?*

*A.* By faith, Christian obedience and repentance.

*Q.* 45. *What is faith?*

*A.* *Faith* is a steadfast persuasion of the love of God in Christ, whereby we give ourselves unto him, and trust in him for salvation.

*Q.* 46. *What is Christian obedience?*

*A.* *Christian obedience* is following the example of Christ in goodness and brotherly love, meekness and humility, patience and peaceableness, contempt of the world, self-denial, love to God, and submission to his will.

*Q.* 47. *What is repentance?*

*A.* *Repentance* is turning from sin unto God, in hatred of sin, and hope of God's mercy.

*Q.* 48. *What means hath God appointed to induce and enable us to believe, obey and repent?*

*A.* God hath appointed his providences, word and Spirit, prayer, baptism and the Lord's supper.

*Q.* 49. *How must we improve the providences of God?*

*A.* We should be led by his benefits to thankfulness, by afflictions to patience, by both to obedience.

*Q.* 50. *How must we improve the word of God?*

*A.* We must read and hear the word with diligence, preparation and prayer, receive it with faith and

and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practise it in our lives.

*Q. 51. Who is the Spirit of God ?*

*A.* The holy Ghost, whom Christ hath sent to enlighten, sanctify, strengthen and comfort our souls.

*Q. 52. How do we obtain the help of the Spirit ?*

*A.* By prayer, and our own sincere endeavours in godliness.

*Q. 53. What is prayer ?*

*A.* Prayer is offering up our desires to God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

*Q. 54. Have we any rule for prayer ?*

*A.* The prayer which Christ taught his disciples is a rule for prayer.

*Q. 55. Repeat the Lord's prayer ?*

*A.* Our Father which art in heaven; hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasss, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Q. 56. What must you do when you say, Our Father which art in heaven ?*

*A.* I must lift up my heart in thankfulness and faith to God my heavenly Father.

*Q. 57. When we say, Hallowed be thy name, what do we desire ?*

*A.* We desire that we and all mankind may know, love and reverence God.

*Q. 58. When we say, Thy kingdom come, what do we desire ?*

*A.* We desire that the faith of the gospel may every where be embraced and professed. *Q.*



Q. 59. *When we say, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, what do we desire?*

A. We desire that we and all who profess the gospel, may do the will of God, as the angels in heaven.

Q. 60. *When we say, Give us this day our daily bread, what do we pray for?*

A. We pray that under God's blessing we may have and enjoy the conveniencies of life.

Q. 61. *When we say, Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us, what do we pray for?*

A. Confessing our sins we ask forgiveness of them, and forgive all those that have injured us.

Q. 62. *When we say, Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, what do we pray for?*

A. We pray that God would not suffer us to be tempted above our strength, but would support and deliver us when we are tempted.

Q. 63. *What do we do when we say, For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory?*

A. We plead with God.

Q. 64. *What do we plead when we say, Thine is the kingdom?*

A. That the king of the whole universe can easily over-rule all things for our good.

Q. 65. *What do we plead when we say, Thine is the power?*

A. That the Almighty can easily raise us to any degree of excellency.

Q. 66. *What do we plead when we say, Thine is the glory?*

A. That it will be for the glory of God to answer our requests.

Q. 67. *What is the meaning of Amen?*

A. It signifies our desire and assurance to be heard.

Q. 68. *What are baptism and the Lord's Supper?*

A.

*A. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are special signs of God's love and our duty.*

*Q. 69. What is baptism in particular ?*

*A. Baptism is washing with water in the name of the Father, Son, and holy Ghost.*

*Q. 70. How is baptism a sign of God's love ?*

*A. As we are thereby assured of the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Spirit, to carry us safe thro' all difficulties and temptations to eternal life.*

*Q. 71. How is baptism a sign of our duty ?*

*A. As it signifies the cleansing of our hearts and lives from sin, without which we cannot be saved.*

*Q. 72. What is the Lord's Supper ?*

*A. The Lord's supper is eating of bread, and drinking of wine in remembrance of Christ.*

*Q. 73. What doth the bread and wine signify ?*

*A. The bread signifies Christ's crucified body, and the wine his blood shed for the remission of sin.*

*Q. 74. How is the Lord's supper a token of God's love ?*

*A. As we are there admitted to his table among his children, and have the grace of his covenant sealed unto us.*

*Q. 75. How is the Lord's supper a sign of our duty ?*

*A. As we learn from the death of Christ to die unto sin, and to yield ourselves unto God, to love and serve him all our days.*

*Q. 76. And when you have served God all your days, what are your hopes after death ?*

*A. My hopes after death are, That Christ will give me eternal life, when he shall come from heaven and raise all the dead to life again.*

*Q. 77. And what will follow when the dead are raised to life ?*

*A. They*

*A.* They must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to give an account to him of their behaviour in this world.

*Q. 78. And how will Christ deal with men in judgment?*

*A.* He will separate the righteous from the wicked, and pass sentence on them according as their works have been.

*Q. 79. And what then will become of the wicked?*

*A.* The wicked shall go into everlasting punishment.

*Q. 80. And what shall be the happy condition of the righteous?*

*A.* The souls and bodies of the righteous being made exceeding glorious shall be received into heaven, to live there with God their Father, and with his holy angels in everlasting joy, *Amen.*

## An Abridgement of a larger one.

### PART I. *Of the Reasons of the Christian Religion.*

Quest. 1. **W**HAT is true religion?

*Ans.* True religion consists in the performance of the duties we owe to God, to our neighbour, and to ourselves, proceeding from the love of God, and of mankind. Tit. ii. 11, 12. Mat. xx. 37, 40.

*Q. 2. What is the first principle of all religion?*

*A.* The first and leading principle of all religion is, to believe that God is, and that he is a rewarder of them who diligently seek him. Heb. xi. 6.

*Q. 3. How does it appear that there is a God?*

*A.* By the things that are made, it evidently appears, that there is an eternal power and Godhead, a first cause, who is most powerful, wise, and good. Rom. i. 20.

*Q. 4.*



*Q. 4. Hath God made any revelation of his will to mankind ?*

*A.* Beside the light of nature, which he hath afforded unto all men, he hath at sundry times, and in divers manners, spoken in times past, unto the fathers by the prophets, and in these last days, he hath spoken unto us by his Son. Heb. i. 1, 2.

*Q. 5. How does it appear that Moses and the prophets, Jesus Christ and his apostles, were sent by God to declare his will ?*

*A.* It appears they were sent by God, by the doctrines they taught, which were worthy of God, and fitted to advance the happiness of mankind ; by the many great and surprising miracles they wrought, which no man could have done, unless God had been with him ; and by the spirit of prophecy, whereby they foretold many future events, such as none could have foreseen without a divine revelation, and which accordingly came to pass. Heb. ii. 3, 4.

*Q. 6. But how does it appear that they taught such doctrines, performed such miracles, and foretold such future events ?*

*A.* Because they spake and acted in the most open and public manner ; and what they taught and did is testified by those who were eye and ear witnesses, of what they relate ; who laid down their lives in confirmation of their testimony ; and who were themselves endowed with the extraordinary and miraculous gifts of the holy Ghost : and the account of these things is handed down to us in the books of the Old and New Testaments, which were written by some of these witnesses. 1 John i. 1, 2, 3. 2 Pet. i. 16, 21. 2 Tim. iii. 15, 16.

PART II. *Of the articles of the Christian faith.*

Quest. 1. **W**HAT do the scriptures teach us to believe concerning God?

*Answ.* The scriptures teach us to believe, that there is one God and Father of all, who is a being of most perfect wisdom, goodness and power; the Creator, preserver and governor of all things. Eph. iv. 6. 1 Cor. viii. 6.

Q. 2. *What do the scriptures teach us concerning the creation of mankind?*

*A.* The scriptures teach us, that God created man in his own image, with reason and understanding, with kind and benevolent affections, and with dominion over the inferior creatures. Gen. i. 26, 27. Eph. iv. 24. Col. iii. 10.

Q. 3. *What do the scriptures teach us to believe concerning Jesus Christ.*

*A.* The scriptures teach us to believe, that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person; that he is the Redeemer of the world, the prophet, priest and king of the church, who died, and rose again, and ascended into the heavens, and is ordained by God to be the Lord of all, the judge of quick and dead. Mat. xvi. 16. Heb. i. 2. Tit. ii. 14. 1 Cor. xv. 3, 4. and viii. 6. Acts x. 42. and xvii. 13.

Q. 4. *What do the scriptures teach us concerning the holy Ghost?*

*A.* Concerning the holy Ghost the scriptures teach us, that he is the Spirit of the Father and of the Son, who spake by the prophets, who led the apostles into all truth, and who is the sanctifier and guide of all good Christians. John xv. 26. and xvi. 13. 2 Pet. i. 21. Eph. ii. 22.

Q. 5.

*Q. 5. What do the scriptures teach us concerning the pardon of sin?*

*A.* The scriptures teach us, that if we sincerely repent of our sins, so as to forsake them, and reform our lives according to the laws of the gospel, we shall obtain the pardon of them, how great or many soever they have been, and be graciously accepted of God, through Jesus Christ. Luke xxiv. 47. 1 Tim. i. 15. 1 John i. 9. Prov. xxviii. 13.

*Q. 6. What do the scriptures teach us concerning a future state?*

*A.* The scriptures teach us, that there is another life after this, wherein all men having been raised from the dead, and judged according to their works, shall be either happy or miserable, according as their prevailing temper and behaviour has been in this world, whether good or bad. John v. 28, 29. 2 Cor. v. 10. Matth. xxv. 46.

### PART III. *Of the laws and institutions of the Gospel.*

*Quest. 1. HAVE we any abridgment of the laws of the gospel?*

*Ans.* Our Lord Jesus Christ has given us a very short and plain abridgment of the laws of his religion in Matth. xxii. 37, 40. *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind: this is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.* And we have another from the apostle Paul in his epistle to Titus, chap. ii. 12. *The grace of God that bringeth salvation, hath appeared to all men: teaching us, that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts*



*lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.* See also to the same purpose, Matth. xix. 16, 19. Rom. xiii. 8, 9, 10.

*Q. 2. What do we learn from these abridgements of the Christian laws?*

*A.* We learn from them our duty to God, our neighbour, and ourselves.

*Q. 3. What is our duty towards God?*

*A.* Our duty towards God is, to love, fear, reverence and honour him above all things; to put our trust in him at all times, and submit to his will in all events? to worship him in sincerity and truth; in every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, offering up our requests unto him; to endeavour to imitate him, as far as the frailty of our nature will admit, and sincerely to obey his laws, and to study in all these ways to obtain his favour and approbation, which is better than life. Mark xii. 29, 30. Heb. xii. 28. Psal. lxii. 8. Luke xxii. 42. John iv. 24. Philip. iv. 6. Eph. v. 1. Mat. vii. 21. Psal. lxxiii. 25, 26.

*Q. 4. What is our duty towards our neighbour?*

*A.* Our duty towards our neighbour is, to love him as ourselves, and to do to others as we would be dealt by in the like case; to behave with due submission and reverence towards our superiors, with a prudent condescension towards our inferiors, and to be mild, courteous, and obliging towards all; to abstain from murder, adultery, fornication, theft, robbery, oppression, and all manner of fraud and injustice; and from lying, slandering and backbiting; to hurt no body in word or deed, and, as far as we can, to be kind friendly, and useful to all. Mark xii. 31. Mat. vii. 12. Rom. xiii. 7. and xii. 16. 1 Pet. iii. 8. 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10. and xiii. 4, 7. Heb. xiii. 4.

*Q. 5.*

*Q. 5. What is the duty of every one towards himself?*

*A.* The duty of every one towards himself is, to endeavour so to govern his bodily appetites and passions, that he may enjoy a sound mind in a sound body, and be at all times in a fit temper and disposition to perform any other part of his duty; particularly to be temperate and sober, pure and chaste, humble and lowly, meek and forgiving, and patient under adversity; to have his conversation without covetousness, and to learn in whatever state he is, therewith to be content. Prov. xxv. 28. 1 Cor. vi. 12, 13, 19, 20. and ix. 25, 26, 27. 2 Cor. vii. 1. Gal. v. 16, 26. Mat. v. 5, 8. and vi. 12. Rom. ii. 3. 1 Pet. v. 5. James v. 7. 11. Heb. xiii. 5. Phil. iv. 11, 12.

*Q. 6. What are the qualifications of Christian obedience?*

*A.* Our obedience to the laws of the gospel should be sincere and universal, constant and persevering; performed with cheerfulness and zeal, with prudence and courage, Philip. i. 10. 2 Cor. i. 12. Jam. ii. 10. 11. Cor. xv. 58. Rom. xii. 11. Tit. i. 14. 2 Pet. i. 6. 1 Cor. xvi. 13. Matth. x. 6. Eph. v. 15.

We should repent us truly of our sins, confessing them before God, and earnestly imploring his mercy thro' Jesus Christ; we should sincerely resolve, and heartily endeavour, that wherein we have done iniquity, we will do so no more, but will for the future reform what has been amiss, and walk in newness of life. Acts iii. 19. 1 John i. 9. and ii. 1, 2. Job xxxiv. 31. 32. Rom. vi. 4.

*Q. 8. Hath Jesus Christ appointed any rite of admission into his church?*

*A.* He hath appointed baptism, that is, a washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the

the holy Ghost, in token of becoming disciples of Christ, members of his church, and being obliged to obey his laws, Mat. xxviii. 19, 20. Rom. vi. 3, 4.

*Q. 9. Hath Jesus Christ appointed any memorial of his sufferings and death?*

*A.* He hath commanded us to take bread and wine, and having given thanks, to eat of the bread, and drink of the wine, with reverence and devotion, in thankful remembrance that he died for us, in testimony of our union and fellowship with him, and with all Christian brethren. 1 Cor. xi. 23, 29. and x. 16, 17.

**F I N I S.**

